



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
ROOM 372 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012/(213) 974-1465

FOUNDER
MRS. SYBIL BRAND

CHAIR
MRS. ELEANOR R. MONTANO

VICE CHAIR
HELEN R. STATHATOS

MR. FRANK S. BACIO
MR. VITO CANNELLA
MR. JAMES W. CRAGIN
MR. CARL E. MOORE
MR. MICHAEL A. RUSSELL

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Montano at 10:02 a.m. A list of those in attendance follows.

ROLL CALL - ATTENDANCE

Present: Vice-Chairperson Eleanor Montano, Vito Cannella,
Carl Moore, Michael Russell, and Helen Stathatos

Absent: Frank S. Bacio (excused)

Others Present: Gene Romig and Dedie Ward, Board of Supervisors Lt. John Saleeby,
Sheriff's Department
Doris Reed, Auditor-Controller
Joseph Estrada, Probation Department

Vice-Chair Montano announced that Mrs. Brand passed away last night in her home. Commissioners agreed to purchase a wreath to be placed outside the doorway of the Commission office. Vice Chair Montano also acknowledged and thanked Gene Romig for acquiring the new flags for the Commission office and also for developing a new Group Home Report form.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant Saleeby reported that the department is in the process of taking extra precautions to reduce the spread of a disease called MRSA, which is easily transmitted in an environment such as the jail facility. To address this problem, the Department has access to a surplus of approximately 40,000 pairs of Adidas shower shoes which they will be offering to the inmates as an incentive to get them to take more showers. The shoes will be given to inmates for use during their incarceration and upon release, will be returned.

Lt. Saleeby reported that the inmate population at Twin Towers is currently 2,016 females, and 2,442 males. The total custody count in the County jail system is 17,646.

The department has a vending card program which has recently been changed to make vending machines more accessible to inmates. The machines are currently being utilized in the women's modules in an effort to boost morale and sales of the vending products. A portion of the vending machine sales goes to the Sheriff Department.

Lt. Saleeby also reported that his department is targeted for budget reductions totaling over \$100 million for fiscal year 2004-05. The Sheriff's Department is advocating for an initiative which would call for funding allocations to the department from ½% of the State sales tax.

The Department of Justice is also progressing with the inspections in Central Jail to determine the care and treatment of inmates with mental disabilities. They are also working to gather another team of Sheriff and Mental Health professionals to conduct the inspections.

Ongoing facility inspections are also being conducted by the Board of Corrections. A comprehensive report on the inspections will be compiled and completed later this year for distribution.

Lt. Saleeby also spoke about some inmate problems and stated that the department is working on emergency evacuation procedures, testing emergency gear and providing training for officers.

PROBATION

Joe Estrada, Probation Department, gave an overview on proposed budget reductions to his department. The Probation Department is due to have a \$201 million budget reduction which will affect key programs and services. Nineteen probation camps are targeted for closure, and several programs such as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) will have reductions in services and may possibly be eliminated next year. Sixteen hundred probation staff are targeted for lay off.

In an effort to justify the need to provide pertinent probation programs and services to youth and families, the Department has been lobbying the State to promote their program successes. Mr Estrada was recently interviewed by the newspaper, La Opinion, and used the opportunity to speak on the benefits and necessity of keeping probation camps open.

Commissioners mentioned news articles which reported the practice of using isolation cages at the California Youth Authority (CYA) facilities. Commissioners were informed that the Governor has developed a directive to review the overall operation of the CYA. Mr. Estrada stated that sending a youth from probation camp to the CYA is a last resort, and is only used after every attempt to rehabilitate a youth has failed.

Mr. Estrada also reported that probation has 1,646 juvenile detainees; 271 females, and 1375 males. Of the 1,646, 980 are currently being housed pending court process. The remaining detainees are government holds or psychiatric evaluations.

Mr. Estrada announced that he would be retiring from the Probation Department in March of this year.

Commissioner Moore thanked Mr. Estrada for his assistance in expediting a letter directed to the Kirby Center which commended its staff and the Center's operation.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Doris Reed reported that the Department will be starting its annual audit of group homes. Because of staff reductions, DCFS will not be able to audit all of the group homes this year. At this time, it is uncertain how the department will be impacted by proposed budgetary reductions. Ms. Reed also gave an update on position changes and various other transitional and interim activities which are currently occurring in her department.

Vice Chair Montano thanked the representatives for their reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 11, 2004 were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was presented.

FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT

Camp Routh, Tujunga, CA

- Inspection: Conducted by Commissioners Stathatos and Cannella
- Inspection escort: Director, Frank Trejo.
- Facility capacity: 90; occupancy: 79 juveniles.
- Overall Assessment: Good. The kids need a recreation area with equipment. A request for a basketball court has been sent to the Probation Department. A portion of the existing fence needs repairing. The facility has been offered the opportunity to participate in the National Garden Association's 2004 Youth Garden Grant program.

B & I, Pomona, CA, #1

- Inspection: Conducted by Commissioner Montano.
- Inspection escort: Doris Edwards
- Facility capacity: 6; occupancy 6 (DCFS boys)
- Overall assessment: Satisfactory. The first aid kit needs restocking.

B & I, Pomona, CA, #2

- Inspection: Conducted by Commissioner Montano.
- Inspection escort: Renae Hudson
- Facility capacity: 6; occupancy 5 (DCFS boys)
- Overall assessment: Satisfactory. No key to the first aid kit.

Manna Manor, Inc., Carson, CA

- Inspection: Conducted by Commissioners Montano and Moore.
- Inspection escort: F. Galoia
- Facility capacity: 6; occupancy 4 (boys ages 7-14)
- Overall assessment: Satisfactory. The emergency phone number and emergency plans were not posted. The first aid kit needed restocking. No keys for the garage. Commissioners were able to meet and interact with the kids and talk to them and determine how they were being cared for.

Turnmont Home, Carson, CA

- Inspection: Conducted by Commissioners Montano, Moore, and Russell
- Inspection escort: Cora King
- Facility capacity: 6; occupancy 6 (boys ages 9-14).
- Overall assessment: Satisfactory. Two beds needed replacing which the Commissioners were told would be done in the near future. The chore list was not posted and the first aid kit needed restocking.

Hathaway Children and Families Services

- Inspection: Conducted by Commissioner Stahatos and Cannella
- Inspection escort: E. Boatner
- Facility capacity: 98; occupancy: 89, (56 boys and 43 girls)
- Overall assessment: Satisfactory.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed the passing of Mrs. Brand, and wanted it stated for the record, that they would like the Commission office to remain as it is, as a tribute to Mrs. Brand and her life's work. It is also the wish of the Commissioners that if possible, the office be changed into a mini museum that could be toured and shared with the public in memory of Mrs. Brand.

Following discussion, the Commission will send a letter to the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, Violet Varona-Lukens, formalizing their wishes and plans for the Commission office. A draft of the letter will be presented for review and approval by Commissioners at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. in loving memory of and respect for their Chairperson, Sybil Brand, who passed away at home on Tuesday, February 17, 2004, at 10:00 p.m. peacefully in her sleep.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dedie Ward
Commission Services**

